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D. Scott  
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TECHNICAL CENTER 2800  
Pat. No. 09/654,093  
Inventor: Thakur et al.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor of: Thakur et al.

Serial No.: 09/654,093

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: A METHOD TO AVOID THRESHOLD VOLTAGE SHIFT  
IN THICKER DIELECTRIC FILMS

§  
§ Group Art Unit: 2815  
§  
§ Examiner: P. Brock II  
§  
§ Atty. Docket: 94-0302.02  
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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Signature  
*Susan Jerome*

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE  
OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2001

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Amendment and Response to the Office Action of September 4, 2001. please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to the form indicated below.

- B<sup>1</sup>
52. (Once amended) A method of processing a semiconductor device, comprising:
- depositing a dielectric layer over a semiconductor substrate, said substrate comprising a plurality of electrically conductive regions and an electrically insulative region therebetween;
  - allowing electrically chargeable particles to occur in said dielectric layer;
  - allowing some diffusion of said electrically chargeable particles; and